

TRANSLATED REMARKS from AUG. 31, 2020 PRESS CONFERENCE ON FARM LABOR WAGE BOARD AND CALL TO DELAY CHANGES TO 60-HOUR OVERTIME THRESHOLD

Alfred Mejia

21-Year Employee of My-T Acres, Inc. in Batavia, NY

Good Morning. I would first like to thank all of you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Alfredo Mejia. I work at My-T Acres, Inc. in Batavia, New York. I have worked in farming for 23 years. I chose working on a farm because I wanted to work and earn as much as possible to meet my needs as well as be able to help my parents with necessities. Working more hours has made it possible for me to buy my own house and provide for my family. I was also able to pay for my oldest son to go to St. John Fisher College in Rochester, where he recently graduated.

If the hours are cut from 60 to 40, it will affect me. If the farmers cannot afford to pay overtime wages over 40 hours I will not be able to afford my expenses or help my family like I can now. I will not be able to afford to pay for my house or pay for my younger son to go to college. I would have to find another job or take on a second job. I do not want to do that. I want to get as many hours as I can at this farm. I have worked here for 23 years. I have paid time off and a pension. I also really like my job. I like what I do and I do not want to do something else.

Thank you for listening.

Alfredo Mejia